

March 6, 2007

To: Members of the Human Services Committee:

**Testimony in support of Raised Bill #7302: AN ACT CONCERNING RATES PAID
TO PROVIDERS UNDER THE CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM.**

My name is Vera Baz and I run a licensed daycare in my home in Meriden. I have been a teacher for more than fifteen years, first for a traditional center and now in my home. Although the children I care for enjoy a nurturing, homelike environment, they also receive early childhood education and social skills. Their parents depend on me to keep their kids safe and get them ready to succeed in school. Home based care is an option many families prefer and I provide this important service for the state and for the community.

Running my own daycare center has its joys and challenges. I have invested a lot into my center but the state's reimbursement rates are low and I do not have affordable health insurance. I take two very expensive medications. If I am not healthy then I cannot meet my obligations to the kids.

I have seriously considered closing my daycare but I would rather not have to. I used to have a group daycare center with a partner; we were able to serve twelve kids.

Unfortunately, we were not able to pay all the bills with the compensation we received from the state and my partner had to quit. If I had to close my doors, six more families and their workplaces would be affected. Over recent years many providers have had to shut the daycare since it because they were no longer making enough money to support

their own families. I believe if the state raised the subsidy rates many providers would be able to continue to stay open.

I urge you to support this bill, RB.7302, that would provide an adequate reimbursement rate for child care providers. Thank-you for taking the time to read my letter.

Vera Baz

Sunshine Day Care

87 Williams St.

Meriden, CT 06450

(203)634-9149